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## GENERAL

1. French may postpone agreement on Germany--The French delegate to the London talks on Germany has informed US Ambassador Douglas that the French Government considers it necessary to postpone final agreement on the projected program for western Germany until the subject can be debated in the French Assembly. Douglas regards this plan as exceedingly dangerous, in view of the capital which French Communists could make of such a discussion.

US Ambassador Caffery in Paris reports that French Foreign Minister Bidault insists that France does not want to break off the discussions on Germany and wishes to go along with the US. Bidault remarked, however, that there was deep concern in France lest the USSR take aggressive action in Berlin and possibly overrun France itself.

The Department of State has instructed Ambassador Caffery to express to Bidault the earnest hope that the French Government will be able to approve the program for western Germany now being formulated in London. Caffery is instructed to state that the US does not favor a high-level meeting of the US, the UK, and France at this time but does intend--in accordance with the pending resolution of the US Senate and President Truman's recent declaration--to strengthen the ability of the free nations of Europe to resist aggression to an extent equal to their will to defend themselves.

(CIA Comment: The French delegate's suggestion and Bidault's reiteration of French fears apparently represent another attempt to persuade the US to give France military guarantees sufficiently strong to avert public criticism of the Government's concessions on the issue of French security.)

## EUROPE

2. AUSTRIA: Treaty problems may be submitted to UN--The Austrian Minister to London has told the US representative at the Austrian treaty talks that the Austrian Government is

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studying the possibility of placing the treaty problem before the autumn session of the UN and wishes to know the US and UK views on this question. The US representative "understands" that the UK is reluctant to commit itself at this time. He adds that the Austrian Government is preparing concrete proposals for changes in the occupation regime and plans to discuss them with the three western powers.

(CIA Comment: The greatest benefit Austria could probably receive from requesting UN action would derive from its propaganda value. However, following such action, the USSR might suggest the withdrawal of all occupation forces before a treaty had been concluded, and this withdrawal could deprive Austria of military safeguards now provided by the presence of the western occupation troops.)

#### NEAR EAST-AFRICA

3. SAUDI ARABIA: Ibn Saud firm against partition--US Minister Childs believes that Ibn Saud will now throw the full weight of his influence and strength against the partition of Palestine, despite the great moderation he has exhibited in the past. Childs thinks that the King is prepared to commit Saudi Arabia to any measure which the Arab League agrees will best further the Arab cause.

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